

Town of Inlet
Clean Waters Committee
February 24, 2004

The Clean Waters Committee meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2004 in the meeting room of the Inlet Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

Present:

Tom Prevost, Chairman
Matt Cooper, Bernier, Carr and Associates
Mich Lehman, Bernier, Carr and Associates
Ken Nelson
Chip Sauer
John Frey
Dayt Cleaveland
Adele Burnett, Recording Secretary

Also Present:

Linda Nelson
Bill Faro
Joe Spilka

Chairman Prevost stated that with the support of Senator Betty Little he has sent out a grant to the State of New York requesting \$28,000 for the preliminary study of a public wastewater treatment facility. Copies of this grant are available in the Town Clerk's Office and the Information Office. He also mentioned that he had a brief conversation with Senator Hilary Clinton, who stated she would like to help, and referred him to someone better able to. It was noted that Hilary might be helpful when it comes to environmental issues.

Chairman Prevost stated that he would be requesting assistance from Marshall Henry to help determine a "unit rate" for the Town of Inlet.

Chairman Prevost reported that the subcommittee would be getting together one more time with maps of the entire town of Inlet. They will be marking these maps, noting lots that currently have septic and/or water concerns. They will bring these maps to the next meeting. It was noted that the engineers had sent some maps used by the last committee, and that if needed they could send more.

Chairman Prevost read a letter from Judy Herron stating that she did not have a conversation with Mr. Prevost in reference to property values and wastewater systems. Mr. Prevost then stated that any information to be used by this committee would be in written form for public record.

There was a brief discussion concerning Town Board Members and their influence on town committees. John Frey pointed out that he had become involved with and chaired the first wastewater committee prior to running for a town councilman position. He explained that his being on this committee is what prompted his interest in town government.

The committee, with help from the public present, listed 22 reasons why they felt the previous vote for a wastewater district had failed. These issues were discussed at length, with the first concern being **Cost**. The group agreed that more information needed to be collected, documented and made available to the public. Such documentation would include but not be limited to examples of similar projects in other towns, showing how the project is funded, how town employees who work for the system are paid, who pays for hookups, what happens when the project exceeds the budget, and so on.

The second topic discussed was **Environmental** concerns. Even after the engineers again explained that the previously proposed system was designed for intermittent streams, meaning that there could have been no flow in the channel between Fifth and Sixth Lake and this would have been environmentally safe, it was still suggested that Fifth Lake be taken off the list as a possible outlet to any system. The group agreed that there needed to be written documentation showing many alternative systems, discharge locations, etc. before any new proposals are made. It was noted that Susan Kennedy from the New York State Department of Health has offered help with water testing. This will be looked into to see if there would be a charge for this. It was also noted during this discussion that Lake Placid had received funding for “innovative alternatives” and this committee should look into this.

The group agreed that **Education** of the public would be concentrated on during this second time around. It was suggested that a Glossary of Terms be put together, making it easier for everyone to understand what is being discussed. The engineers offered to help with this. Chairman Prevost noted that he would be sure meeting minutes and agendas are posted for the public, and that all documents and information collected are made available to the public through the Town Clerk's Office and in the Inlet Information Office.

The committee also discussed finding a nonbiased professional to determine EDUs (Equivalent Dwelling Units) for any suggested area.

It was suggested that Paul Chambers might be able to obtain data collected by Hamilton County Soil & Water of testing done in the area. Joe Spilka will check with the Sixth and Seventh Lake Association for any testing that might have been done on Sixth and Seventh Lake.

Chairman Prevost stated that he planned on sending out surveys in an attempt to get more public input. The engineers will bring samples of surveys sent out by other towns.

Adele Burnett suggested that this committee could put information in the quarterly newsletter sent out by the Information Office. This newsletter is mailed to 502 Inlet taxpayers and/or registered voters.

All present agreed that the most critical concerns to be addressed were cost, EDUs, environmental concerns, and service area. And that education, though publications made available to the public, on all of these is most important.

Public Comment – Bill Faro stated that 20 years ago the Town of Inlet had the opportunity to put in a public wastewater system with 100% funding, and that many talk about this now as a missed opportunity. He suggested that this committee keep that in mind and try not to be the subject of conversations of missed opportunities 20 years from now.

The agenda for the next meeting was discussed which will be held Tuesday, March 23, 2004 at 7:30 PM in the Meeting Room of the Inlet Town Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectively yours,

Adele M. Burnett